

March 2008 Vol. 18 No. 2



# Mayor Nickels Honors STUDENT ART CONTEST WINNERS

Rainier Beach Community Center Pancake Breakfast was the venue for Neighborhood **Appreciation Day event participants** 

On February 9th, the 14th annual Neighbor Appreciation Day, Mayor and Council Nickels Member Clark honored the top three winners, and ten honorable mentions of this year's Student Art Contest. The contest winner, Simon Thai, a seventh grader at Asa Mercer Middle School, has his art adorning the Neighbor Appreciation Day cards that were made available throughout the city that day.

Mayor Nickels and Council Member Clark with this year's Student Art Contest winners.

The award ceremony took

place adjacent to the annual Rainier Beach Community Center pancake breakfast, which was offered free to the student awardees and their families.

The celebration began in 1995, when Phinney Ridge activist Judith Wood suggested that the City designate "a special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other." Mayor Norm Rice responded by proclaiming the Saturday before Valentine's Day as Neighbor Appreciation Day. The observance has grown every year since.

By tradition, we ask Seattle students every year to send us drawings of what they thought it meant to be good neighbors. Some ideas from previous years show neighbors sharing meals, helping with childcare, exchanging plants, or talking over the fence. The artwork has also depicted neighbors working together on a community project,

such as building a new playground, painting a mural, or beautifying school or park grounds.

Neighbor Appreciation Day greeting cards are available free to organizations and individuals. The card is suitable for use throughout the year. This year our sponsor is Swifty Printing, a local small business committed to printing excellence, high quality, and swift turn-around.

**INSIDE** 



# Your Neighborhood CLIMATE ACTION CORNER



Coming up in April, Seattle Climate Action Now! will be strutting its climate stuff at the first-ever **Seattle Green Festival**. On April 12th and 13th, come visit us at the interactive City of Seattle pavilion on your way in. We'll have fun activities and great raffle prizes as well as hands-on opportunities for folks of all ages to learn about: energy efficiency, waste reduction, urban livability, transportation, urban forestry and renewable energy.

Also in April (on the 7th) is the deadline for the next round of application for the Neighborhood Climate Action Now! fund. Since it began in summer 2007, this new category of the Neighborhood Matching Fund's Small & Simple program has funded 7 excellent projects, including the Eat Local for Thanksgiving campaign, which you may have seen this promotional campaign at your local farmers' market. It was designed to entice cooks and consumers alike to buy their holiday meal ingredients from sources a little closer to home, thereby reducing their climate impact and increasing the money staying in our community. They were hugely successful, with at least 2,300 folks taking the pledge to eat local!

Before we get to April, keep your eyes out for another Neighborhood Climate Action Now! project, the Biodiesel in Your Neighborhood Community Forum. On March 15th at Rainier Community Center, this youth-centered event includes student presentations

and youth biodiesel essay contest results, a visit from City Councilmember Sally Clark, panel discussions on biodiesel activism for improving health and fighting climate change, and informative booths with friendly volunteers from neighborhood and community organizations.

If you're interested in starting a conversation about climate change with your neighbors but don't know where to begin, another Seattle Climate Action Now! project, the Greater Seattle Climate Dialogues, may be the perfect place to start. They've developed a basic discussion guide workbook for you to start organizing in your living rooms, churches, workplace, etc. Their aim is to have discussion groups throughout the city, and eventually beyond. So far, 14 Seattle neighborhoods have begun the conversation. "The goal of the discussion circles is not necessarily to reach consensus, but to build a network of citizens who understand the facts and are committed to finding solutions. We will come together in spring of 2008 for the Citizen's Climate Summit, where we sit down with political leaders and chart a course towards making good, longterm decisions to ensure a safe and healthy future."

If you're interested in learning more about any of these projects or about the Neighborhood Climate Action Now! fund, please contact Eden Trenor at 206-684-4520 or eden.trenor@seattle.gov.

# Grant keeps the wheels spinning FOR SEATTLE YOUTH

Dara Ayres knows financial and community support can be a big help when your mission is to inspire healthy habits in area youth. Ayres, executive director of Bike Works in Seattle and a recent recipient of a Children & Teens grant from the Group Health Community Foundation, is excited to be able to

expand the services her non-profit organization provides and propel Bike Works in a new direction toward an enduring future.

Bike Works, established in 1996 and located in south Seattle's Columbia City neighborhood, serves low-income youth, many of whom come from culturally diverse single parent or immigrant families. The organization provides kids with unique opportunities to experience

the great outdoors and engage in a physically active lifestyle - all while giving them the confidence and skills to bike 50, 150 or even 500 miles. Of course, none of this is without purpose or without challenge:

"In South Seattle we are seeing some of the highest rates of childhood obesity in the state," said Ayres. "So we have been trying to involve youth in cycling and other healthy activities. For some, their lifestyles and physical conditions are so unhealthy, they can't even get started. That's why we have new programs to reach those most at risk."

With the support of the Group Health Community Foundation grant, Bike Works launched its Introduction to Bike Touring camp (see sidebar) last summer and started a series of new year-round fitness riding programs corresponding with the beginning of the school year. By June 2008, Bike Works hopes to enroll 45 middle school and high school aged young adults in five bike camps over the course of the summer and inspire 175 youth to participate in their year-round activities.



Participants in Bike Works inaugural Introduction to Bike Touring Camp prepare to bike to the ferry for their two-night camping tour on Bainbridge Island.

A portion of the grant will also finance a substantive, "outcomes-based" evaluation of the effectiveness of the new Bike Touring to Health program, an evaluation geared toward backing up success stories with real numbers.

"We know that we can help young people lose weight and feel better through exercise and learning about food," Ayres says. "We know we can help them develop critical think-

ing skills and self-esteem, improve their performance in school, and strengthen their ability to communicate with other students and family members. We know we are making a difference, but it's all anecdotal. Thanks to Group Health, we will be able to do a more systematic evaluation of our impact, and that is very exciting!"

In addition to sponsoring an organization-wide assessment and expanding the capacity and reach of Bike Works riding programs, funding from the grant will also be used to develop a business plan for the Bike Shop, which currently funds 55 percent of the organization's operating revenues through repairs, refurbishment and sales.

# HAPPEN GS vour neighborhood

# UW CLASS PROJECT WILL TRACK BALLARD GROWTH

The Ballard District Council has arranged for support from a UW undergraduate program in geography to assist them in quantifying some of the changes experienced by the Ballard community over the past ten years. This spring quarter undergraduate GIS class project will chart number and type of new housing units, new commercial square footage, new off-street parking, and take stock of those uses displaced by this new development activity.

# **DELRIDGE**

#### COMMUNITY EFFORT TO RESTORE PUGET CREEK

About 45 people attended a meeting at South Seattle Community College to share ideas on how to clean up and restore Puget Creek in the Puget Ridge neighborhood that flows to the Duwamish River and empties near Kellogg Island. The meeting was organized by several residents involved in the Puget Ridge Neighborhood Council. Staff from the Parks Department, Seattle Public Utilities, and the Department of Neighborhoods, as well as representatives from a variety of environmental and restoration groups, including the Duwamish Tribe, Nature Consortium, Duwamish Cleanup Coalition, attended. George Blomberg, Port of Seattle, provided a historical slide show about the Duwamish River. Organizers plan to hold more community meetings in the future.

#### FAMILY CENTER CLOSER TO GOAL

Neighborhood House has closed on its New Market Tax Credit finance package that will net them about \$1.8 million in equity for the new High Point Neighborhood Family Center. They will receive \$588,000 from HUD and have a commitment from Boeing for \$100,000. This brings them to 81% of a \$13 million goal. The capital campaign will go public on May 22 at the organization's annual breakfast at the Washington State Convention Center.

# Two youth hooked on cycling FOLLOWING SUMMER CAMP

De'andre is a 12-year-old Hispanic boy, and Laney is a 12-year-old African American girl. Both are from South Seattle, neither had ever camped before, and only one had ever ridden a bike.

"These two youth came to us out of the blue this past summer, for our new Introduction to Bike Touring Camp" said Tina Bechler, Bike Works program director. "The parents were a bit scared, and their kids were nervous but also very excited about doing something completely different."

The week-long camp included day time bike rides through town, environmental education classes, and two nights of camping and riding on Bainbridge Island. Afterward, Laney talked her mom up with her bicycling adventures and began riding as often as she could. Laney particularly enjoyed the challenge of riding the hills, emphasizing that it was "hard but I overcame it and my new goal is going up more hills."

CYCLING continued on page 5.

Happenings, continued on following page

#### CYCLING continued from page 4.

De'andre enjoyed the social aspects of the camp, along with learning how to pitch a tent and getting physically stronger.

"Both of these young people totally thrived in camp," said Bechler. "They had great attitudes, they were really excited about the camping, and they both said they'd love to do another camp next year. We also hope they will earn their own bikes now, through our after-school Earn a Bike Program.

"Youth in general are really jazzed about cycling," Bechler continued. "Biking is fun. It gets kids out into the world and seeing things that they haven't seen before. It's great exercise, and a healthy form of transportation. In the long run, if we retain these youth year after year in a progression of camps, we'll not only be adding cultural diversity to our region's health movements, but also to our outdoor recreation and environmental movements."



# HAPPEN IGS your neighborhood

# OED WORKING IN CHINATOWN/ID/LITTLE SAIGON NEIGHBORHOODS

The Office of Economic Development has been working in the Chinatown/ID/Little Saigon neighborhoods with the intention of developing an API technical assistance program for the business esses. Additionally, OED is working with the community to develop strategies around specific community issues such as: small business retention & expansion, public safety and image, commercial housing and development, capital improvements and transportation, organizational & community capacity and financing strategies.

### **EAST**

#### CAPITOL HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIVAL

After years of "hibernating", the Capitol Hill Community Council is planning a revival, mostly due to the need to represent the residents' views and to bring together the various smaller communities that compose the Capitol Hill area. The community council has served as the "umbrella organization" bringing together all the high density communities in the neighborhood.

Public Safety issues, such as the recent murder of a young woman, as well as recurring incidents of hate crimes against the LGBT community, prompted neighborhood activists to recall previous leaders of the Capitol Hill Community Council to set up a public forum to restart the community council. The tentative date has been set for January 31 from 6 to 8:00 p.m.

# PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND CONCERNS AT 12TH AVE AND E UNION ST

The East District Coordinator responded to a request from SDOT to assist in resolving the controversy surrounding the location of a bus stop at the northwest corner of 12th Ave and E Union St after SDOT conducted pedestrian improvements to that location such as curb bulbs, green space, a wider street at Union Street, etc.

The temporary location of the bus stop was received by residents with disapproval. Residents claimed that the location, if permanent, could create additional public safety issues in the area.

Residents and businesses held a meeting with City officials and Metro last week to try to find a solution to the location of the bus stop while addressing neighborhood concerns.

Happenings, continued on following page

# HAPPEN IGS GREATER DUWANISH neighborhood

ACORN members (including five residents of South Park) met with Port Staff Kathy Nyland (Georgetown Merchants Association Chair) Holly Krejci (Georgetown Community Council Chair), Greater Duwamish District Coordinators and Port Commissioner Gael Tarleton to discuss the Port's Northwest Clean Air Strategy as well as trucking issues. Though trucks may park legally in appropriately zoned areas of Georgetown, the participants from ACORN and the Georgetown group would like to see some action that alleviates the trucking impact on adjacent residents. Gael Tarleton made the commitment to attend to the physical impacts of trucks by trying to locate a possible parking area for the trucks, and setting up a meeting with the appropriate City officials this April to discuss permitting, zoning, truck routes and other areas that might help in the resolution of this issue.

### **LAKE UNION**

#### **AURORA BRIDGE**

Approximately 70 people attended the SR 99 Suicide Prevention Fence community workshop on January 30. Last month, Governor Gregoire included \$1.4 million in her supplemental budget proposal for the barrier. If funding is approved during the 2008 legislative session, design work could start in spring 2008 with construction starting as early as summer of 2009. Attendees discussed the importance of protecting the view, keeping the historical feel of the structure, and improving pedestrian comfort level on the bridge as part of the design.

#### QFC PROPERTY ON STONE WAY SOLD

QFC sold the property to Prescott Development. Originally, QFC had planned to build a ground level grocery store with an underground parking structure and Prescott Development was to build a 5- story residential unit above the store. QFC decided to sell the property after the construction bid came back with a higher than expected cost. Now Prescott Development is considering two options: build per the approved building permits to build a grocery store with residential units above OR build 150 to 160 residential units with a much smaller street level retail space.

Happenings, continued on following page



#### There are 10,000 Home Emergency Efficiency Kits available for Seattle residents for free.

Seattle's concern for global climate change has presented a unique challenge to the community to address the problem for future generations. "Seattle's Climate Action Now" has developed several ways to lessen our city's impact on the environment and here are several suggestions on how you can make a difference.

One way to have an impact is to use energy more efficiently. Seattle Climate Action Now is offering free home energy efficiency kits to help improve the comfort of our homes and use less energy. Each kit contains:

- High efficiency CFL light bulb
- Reminder to turn down thermostats to 55 degrees at night and when not at home
- Shower timer
- Coupon for a new "smart" power strip
- A series of short do-it-yourself weatherization videos

You can obtain a kit for your home at the Seattle Home Show and at any Seattle Neighborhood Service Center while supplies last.

By participating you are doing your part to ensure a healthy and bright future for our children and world. To find out more on how you can be apart of the Seattle solution to climate change visit

#### www.seattlecan.com

If you are eager to do more the Neighborhood Matching Fund offers financial support to communities that want to make climate dreams a reality. Visit: www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/climate.htm to apply by April 7th. 

### Property of the Neighborhoods in the Neighborhood in



A new partnership between the Department of Neighborhoods and the Seattle Office of Emergency Management makes it easier than ever for neighbors to get together and plan for emergencies.

The SNAP Matching Fund provides up to \$500 to neighbors who register as a SNAP group. If you want to be better prepared for the next disaster, SNAP (**S**eattle **N**eighborhoods **A**ctively **P**repare) is the place to start. Submit a one-page application (available on-line at

http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods), create a match in time, money, or in-kind services, and you're on your way!

"With preparedness, two things people want most are getting the supplies and learning the skills," said JoAnn Jordan, Public Education Coordinator with the Office of Emergency Management. "The SNAP awards allow a group to get to the next level without a big output in funds; a commitment of time is all they need."

In addition to the SNAP awards, the Office of Emergency Management offers classes throughout the city that teach the essentials of putting together a disaster kit, creating a family plan and organizing together. Please see this month's Community Calendar for locations and times!

To learn more about basic preparedness and the SNAP program, please contact the Seattle Office of Emergency Management at 206-233-5076, or go to:

http://www.seattle.gov/emergency.

# HAPPEN GS

# MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE

# RESIDENTIAL PARKING MEETING ON QUEEN ANNE HILL

A meeting took place on January 10 at the Queen Anne Library regarding the proposed Residential Parking Zone for the top of Queen Anne hill. Residents asked the SDOT representative clarifying questions about the process and the advisory committee. Residents who attended the meeting were from both sides of the issue; those who favor the restricted parking, and those who see it as a nuisance. The volunteer advisory committee has formed and is made up of community members representing both residential and business interests. The committee made plans to meet again on Thursday January 31, 6:30 p.m. to further outline the neighborhoods' recommendations for the details of the RPZ.

# QUEEN ANNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL REVIEWS PROPOSAL FOR METROPOLITAN MARKET SITE

The Queen Anne Community Council/Land Use Review Committee met on Monday, January 28, 7:00 p.m. and discussed the proposal for the Metropolitan Market site on the top of Queen Anne hill. Developer Joe Geivett is proposing a project that is a grocery store, but incorporates more community ideas than in past proposals. They are very early in the design phase, but it was indicated that there will be additional retail on the site, as well as market rate apartments and senior apartments. Plans also include a public courtyard.

### **NORTH**

# UNIVERSITY PREP STUDENTS PLAN TO SPRUCE UP LAKE CITY

7th grade students at University Prep presented PowerPoint projects at the Mennonite Church. The projects presented various ways of improving Lake City. Some of the issues they addressed ere graffiti, sidewalk improvement, homelessness and lack of activities for youth. Some have applied for Small Sparks grants.

#### MAPLE LEAF IS EXCITED ABOUT PARKS

Inspired by the success of Cal Anderson Park, members of the Maple Leaf Community Council are organizing volunteers to develop the reservoir in Maple Leaf into Upper Maple Leaf Park, a community gathering place deserving of civic pride. Unlike Cal Anderson Park, they currently do not have funding from the Parks & Recreation Department's Pro Parks Levy. Currently, there are only plans to cover the reservoir for health and safety reasons.

Happenings, continued on following page

# HAPPEN GS

# your neighborhood

### NORTHWES1

#### **CLIMATE ACTION NOW**

Department of Neighborhoods staff have been working with some local neighbors who are organizing a presentation on Climate Change at the Greenwood Library on March 5. They are bringing in environmental activist, Beverly Duperly Boos of Opening the Heart and the Climate Project, to lead a discussion on climate change for the Greenwood neighborhood. The small group began as concerned neighbors who wanted to do something to help with climate change. The presentation is designed to inspire people at a grassroots level and provide concrete ideas and resources for more information and networking. The group has successfully applied for a Small Sparks award for the event.

#### **GREEN MY RIDE**

Another local group is planning a neighborhood community-building event in conjunction with Seattle CAN and Phinney Greenwood Climate Change Action Now (PG CCAN), to be held Saturday, April 26, 2008 at the Phinney Neighborhood Center. The event is being called "Green My Ride" and is designed to increase awareness of green transportation alternatives and encourage less carbon-fuel consumption. Jennifer Wood is the event coordinator.

### **SOUTHEAST**

# RAINIER VALLEY CULTURAL CENTER GETS SOME LOVE

A work party of about 20 volunteers - adults and teens — from the King County Social Justice Program descended on the Rainier Valley Cultural Center in Columbia City to do more than a spot of cleaning. The group helped out the center, operated by Southeast Effective Development, by cleaning the carpet and floors, polishing fixtures and wood, doing some light painting and trimming bushes, raking leaves and picking up trash outside.

#### WELCOME SGT. MARTIN

We're proud to welcome Sgt. Ann Martin as the South Precinct Community Police Team Sergeant. Sgt. Martin comes to the South Precinct from the East Precinct where she was a Patrol sergeant and sergeant of the East Precinct's Bicycle squad. Sgt. Martin is a 27-year veteran of the police department, 17 years of which was spent in the Traffic (Motorcycle) section. Sgt. Steve Daman, the outgoing CPT Sergeant, now leads the South Burglary and Juvenile Detectives section.

Happenings, continued on following page

# City of Seattle

### Mayor's Customer Service Bureau

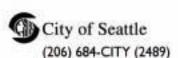
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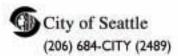
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# HAPPEN IFGS SOUTHWEST YOUR neighborhood

# MONORAIL DOLLARS SOUGHT FOR WATER TAXI SHUTTLE

At the January 7 meeting of Pier 1/Pier 2 Ad Hoc Committee, a letter was approved to urge the Seattle Monorail Project (SMP) to allocate \$60,000 of its remaining \$425,000 to fund a Metro Transit-operated pilot shuttle service from Westwood Village to the Elliott Bay Water Taxi along Delridge Way. The letter was presented at the final meeting of the SMP Board of Directors (SMP Board) held January 17. The SMP Board did not approve the specific request, voting, instead, to approve a transfer of all of the remaining funds to Metro Transit for transportation services along the SMP "Green Line" corridor which spans from Ballard to West Seattle. At the meeting, the SMP Board also voted to terminate the SMP.





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# Free tax preparation sites



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Aubum Valley YMCA 1620 Perimeter Road SW, 98001	Thursdays	6 г.м. – 9 г.м.
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BELLEVUE	with the second	12070-2007
Hopelink 14812 Main Street, 98007	Tuesdays	1 P.M 5 P.M.
	Thursdays	5 RM 9 RM.
	Saturdays	10 a.m 2 r.m.
BURIEN	75	
ACORN of King County Prosperity Center 134 SW 153rd Street, Suite D, 96166	Thursdays	5 pm 9 pm.
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Saturdays	10 a.m 2 p.m.
Yesler Community Center	Thursdays	5 KM 9 KM.
917 East Yesler Way, 98122	Saturdays	10 A.M 2 P.M.
DOWNTOWN SEATTLE	Selurdayii	TU A.M 2 P.M.
Seattle Public Library 1000 4th Ave, 98104	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	12 RM 7 RM.
	Thursdays	12 RM 7 RM.
	Saturdays	12 RM 4 RM.
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FEDERAL WAY	Sundays	1 RM 5 RM.
Multi-Service Center	Wednesdays	5 mm 8 mm.
1200 South 336th St. 98093	Thursdays	5 p.m 8 p.m.
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Aliance Center 515 West Harrison St, 98032	Tuesdays	5 RM 8 RM.
	Thursdays	5 RM 8 RM.
	Saturdays	9 AM - 12 RM
LAKE CITY	Centridaya	9 Aut 10 Film;
Lake City Neighborhood Service Center 12525 28th Ave NE, 2nd Floor, 98125	Tuesdays	5 p.m 9 p.m.
	Saturdays	11 A.M 3 P.M.
RAINIER BEACH	<del>-</del>	
Rainier Beach Community Center 8825 Rainier Ave South, 98118	Wednesdays	5 r.m 8 r.m.
	Saturdays & Sundays	11 A.M 3 P.M.
RENTON	and the second second	
Salvation Army Renton Rotary Food Bank 206 South Tobin Street, 99055	Wednesdays & Thursdays	5 RM, -9 RM,
	Sundays	12 RM 4 RM.
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The Village at Angle Lake Community	Tuesdays	5 P.M 8 P.M.
Services Building	Saturdays	10 a.m 2 p.m.
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- Andrews	Mintender	5 a.u 0 a.u.
Hopelink 15809 Westminster Way N, 96133 Next to Marshalls in Aurora Square Plaza	Wednesdays	5 p.m 9 p.m.
	Saturdays	10 a.m 2 r.m.
WHITE GENTER		
Salvation Army Community Center 9050 16th Ave. SW, 98106	Tuesdays & Wednesdays	5 p.m 9 p.m.
	Saturdays	9 AM 1 PM.
White Center Assembly 10237 16th Avenue SW, 98146	Thursdays	Б г.м. — 9 г.м.
	Saturdays	

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# What you need to bring to the tax site:

- End of year tax statements from all sources of income (W-2, 1099, etc.).
- A copy of last year's tax return if you have it.
- Social Security card number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for every person to be claimed on your return.
- Birthdates for every person to be claimed on your return.
- Child care provider name, address and tax ID number.
- Mortgage interest statement and property tax statement if you own a home.
- Checking and savings account numbers for direct deposit.

United Way of King County Free Tax Preparation Company appearants



















Seattle Parks Recycles

We all recycle at home, and many of us recycle at our work places. Seattle Parks and Recreation is starting an exciting recycling pilot program in our southeast Seattle and West Seattle parks beginning April 1 (no fooling).

You'll see colorful, clearly marked bins for glass, plastic, and aluminum cans and bottles in those parks, and we ask that you use them as you do the bins in our community centers and other buildings. Recycling is not just the right thing to do; it's good for the planet and it teaches our kids good, environmentally sensitive habits.

Funding provided in the 2008 budget enables Parks to create recycle pickup routes in our southeast and West Seattle parks, and we'll report back to you on our success after a year's experience.

Thanks for helping keep our parks green.





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